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ANNUAL REPORT.

Upon the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

For the year ending 31st. December, 1953.

STATISTICS.

1.	Area.	- 39,797 acres.
2.	Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population 1953 (mid-year)	- 5,065
3.	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to Rate Books.	- 1,919
4.	Rateable Value.	- £28315
5.	Sum represented by a penny rate.	- £109.11.6d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	Birth rate 12.5 per 1000 of estimated resident population
<u>Live Births</u> (Legitimate)	63	35	28	
(Illegitimate)	<u>1</u>	-	1	
	<u>64</u>			
<u>Still Births.</u>	2	-	2	
<u>Deaths.</u>	77	35	42	Death Rate 15 per 1000 of estimated resident population

England & Wales      Birth Rate 15.5 per 1000      Death Rate 11.4 per 1000.

<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes.</u>	- Nil.
<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.</u>	- 1
All Infants per 1,000 live births	- 15.6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births-	15.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	- Nil
<u>Deaths from Cancer. (all ages)</u>	- 15
<u>Deaths from Measles (all ages)</u>	- Nil.
<u>Deaths from Whooping Cough. (all ages)</u>	- Nil.
<u>Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)</u>	- Nil.


PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part-time)

D.T. Mc.Donald, M.D., Ch.B.(Edin)  
South Bank, Belford.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.

W.R. Kirk, M.S.I.A.,  
Seabank, Seahouses.



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PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE  
DURING 1953.

During the year 88 cases of Infectious Disease were notified in the Rural District.

Whooping Cough	...	48.	Scarlet Fever	...	3
Chickenpox	...	21.	Pneumonia	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	6	Measles.	...	3.
Dysentary	...	4.			

During the year the District has been reasonably free from Epidemic Disease, and those diseases which did appear in small epidemics were mild in character and did not result in any deaths.

Whooping Cough. was present in the Belford and Seahouses Areas from January until April, and it appeared in Bamburgh in May. Children were the chief sufferers.

Chickenpox. appeared in May at Tyneley and Seahouses among School children.

Sonne Dysentary occurred in Seahouses among School children in October. There were only four cases. The fact that the disease occurred just prior to the October holiday when the School was closed for a week, probably prevented a spread of the disease. Cases were mild in character and quickly recovered.

From the Vital Statistics, it will be noticed that there were 77 deaths in the district, and that the Death Rate is 15 per 1000, which is much above average for the whole country (11.4). The main causes of Death in the District were Cancer 15; Disease of the Heart & Blood Vessels 40; Respiratory Diseases 8.

In 1952 the corresponding figures were Total Deaths - 50, Cancer - 7, Diseases of the Heart & Blood Vessels - 32, Respiratory Diseases - 3. There is a significant increase in the Deaths due to Cancer, but the increase is not due to cancer of the lungs, there being one case in each year under review.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Council owned supplies to the Townships of Belford, Seahouses and Beadnell and the privately owned supply to Bamburgh were, with the exception of minor breakdowns, satisfactory throughout the year. At Bamburgh there was some difficulty in maintaining a full supply during the peak period of July and August.

At Belford the 'Red Spring' was not used which entailed using the Borehole Pump during the summer months to maintain supplies. Frequent scouring of the supply main from the springs was still necessary as the quantity 'ferrous' matter in these is high.

At Seahouses the supply continued to be favourable on the direct feed and with the increase of assistance from the Beadnell system it was possible for the first time in many years, to dispense entirely with the Borehole Pump.

At Beadnell the position was considerably improved by the addition at the source of a collection of springs yielding between 18,000 and 14,000 gallons per day. This was effected by the construction of collecting chambers and the laying of 490 yds. of 3" main at a total cost of £400. A chemical analysis of the water was considered by the Analyst to be satisfactory.

Bamburgh Supply.

After some negotiations the Minister has given his approval to the purchase of this supply, and with the delays which will be caused by termination of agreements and other legal difficulties it is not likely that full possession of the supply will be obtained before next Autumn.





### Warenton Dene Supply.

Negotiations have been started again with the owners of this source of supply with a view to dispensing with the Belford Moor Springs, except in emergency, and providing a better supply of water for Belford Village.

During the year two samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analyses from main supplies and were found to be, respectively, pure and satisfactory.

Water is supplied from the Council's mains to houses in the following parishes:-

PARISH.	Piped into house.	By stand-pipe.	Total No. of houses.
North Sunderland.	559	70	629
Belford.	313	5	318
Beadnell.	161	16	177
Chathill.	17	-	17
Ellingham.	30	3	33
Fleetham.	12	5	17
Swinhoe.	8	12	20
Totals.	1100	111	1211

### SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

#### Beadnell.

The Council's Consulting Engineers submitted their Scheme for the sewerage of Beadnell Village in January, and it was eventually passed to the Minister and the County Council for approval. It was not until December that an informal technical Inquiry was held to look into the proposals.

#### North Sunderland.

The preliminary work of survey and calculations for a new sewer to replace the old and unsatisfactory one was done as other work and circumstances permitted. Progress was rather slow.

As an immediate relief to flooding near the School a proposal went to the County Council that a Storm Water Sewer be laid and the cost shared. This sewer is an essential part of any scheme for the Old Village.

### FOOD PREMISES.

The number of shops and other premises where food is sold or prepared within the District are as follows:-

Butchers	...	7
Bakers (with Bakeries attached)	...	7
Grocers & General Dealers.	...	18
Greengrocers	...	4
Confectioners.	...	8
Fishmongers.	...	1
do. (with vans only)	...	3
Fish & Chip Shops.	...	3
Cafes.	...	5
Hotels.	...	17
Boarding Houses (5 or more beds)	...	6
Public Houses (excluding licensed hotels)	...	8



Of these

- 7 Butcher's Shops.
- 3 Fish & Chip Shops.
- 4 Icecream Manufacturer Retailers.
- 11 Retailers only of pre-packed ice-cream

are registered under Sec.14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

There are 2 Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 .

33 inspections of Registered premises were made during the year. Complaints of deficient standards of cleanliness were dealt with informally and remedied.

During the year the following items of food were surrendered and condemned:-

- 25 Stones Beef (home-killed)
- 56 lbs. Fish.
- 44 Tins of canned goods.

No special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary.

### Public Cleansing.

The Council's scavenging service remains confined to the four main Villages of Belford, Bamburgh, Seahouses and Beadnell with in addition the two small parishes of Bamburgh Castle and Monkhouse.

The number of houses scavenged is now 1108, which is an increase of more than 17% since the service commenced. The total number of inhabited houses being 1919, it is not as yet a practical proposition to acquire a second vehicle and scavenge the whole District though this goal is becoming ever nearer.

### Rodent Control.

The joint employment of a Rodent Operator with Norham & Islandshires R.D.C. continues to work satisfactorily.

During the year, 10 Council properties, 1759 dwelling houses, 88 Agricultural Holdings and 215 other premises were inspected, a total of 2071. Treatments were carried out to 5 Council properties, 198 dwelling houses (a free service), 24 Agricultural holdings, and 9 other business premises.

### Public Conveniences.

The Public Convenience at Bamburgh was completed towards the end of August, but though it was in operation for only a short period of the holiday season it obviously met a very considerable need.

The Conveniences at Seahouses and Belford were put to good service, and it is pleasing to report that there was little damage done at Seahouses.





## HOUSING.

During the year 18 houses were erected by the Council and 24 by private persons of this latter figure 10 were conversions.

The Council now own 222 houses of which 76 were erected pre-war.

### Housing Act 1949.

During the year applications for improvement grants in respect of 30 houses were submitted, of which 29 were approved and improvement works have been completed in 4 houses.

These are the first grants to be approved in the District and though it is regretted that the start has been delayed it is nevertheless a good one. It is to be hoped that future years will show at least a continuation of this pace and that the fullest advantage of the Act will be taken by owners of property.

### Plans.

151 plans were submitted for approval under the byelaws, these were examined and all but 3 which were rejected were recommended for approval, & approved. In the case of one of the rejected plans the Minister's approval was given to waive the byelaw as to space about buildings and it was then approved.

52 Applications for consent under the Town and Country Planning Acts and of these 3 were refused. On appeal against these refusals one was allowed.



## H O U S I N G.

### Tabular Statement for Year 1953.

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.	WITH STATE ASSISTANCE.	UNAIDED.	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority.	18	--	18
(b) By any other Housing Authority.	--	--	--
(c) By private persons.	--	28*	28
* includes 10 conversions.			

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District      1919.

Category.	Classification.	Number.
1.	Satisfactory in all respects.	855
2.	Minor Defects.	234
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.	407
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning and <u>included under Category 3</u>	212
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.	97

## 2.      CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

### A. Formal Action.

- (1) Number of houses demolished during 1953 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action  
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas.      --
- (2) Number of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action.      --

### Informal Action.

- (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above      4

## 3.      RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during 1953 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:

- (a) As a result of informal action      51
- (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice      --
- (c) By Local Authority in default of owners      --



4. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: HOUSING ACT, 1949.

	<u>Number of separate houses.</u>
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year.	30
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority.	1
(c) Applications forwarded to Ministry	29
(d) Applications rejected by Ministry.	-
(e) Applications approved	29
(f) Total number of applications approved in your area since inception of scheme	29

If any houses not included in the above table were approved for granted under the Hill Farming Act, please state number

4

Signed .....

Date.....





S U M M A R Y   O F   W O R K   E F F E C T E D .

		By Informal Action.	By Statutory Notices	TOTAL
Sanitary Conveniences.	Privies and Privy ashpits abolished.	6	-	6
	" " " repairs.	-	-	-
	Pail-Closets abolished.	1	-	1
	Water Closets provided.	7	-	7
	Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S-47.	3	-	3
	Sanitary bins provided	14	-	14
	" " renewed.	37	-	37
Drainage.	New drains constructed	13	-	13
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	31	-	31
	Additional gullies provided	-	-	-
	Old gullies replaced	-	-	-
	Scullery sinks provided	6	-	6
	" waste-pipes repaired	-	-	-
	" " " trapped	-	-	-
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	3	-	-
Water Supply.	Sources closed or discontinued	-	No. of houses	-
	New service provided:			
	(a) By Local Authority	35	No. of houses	41
	(b) By Private Owner	6	No. of houses	6
	Number of dwelling-houses supplied by (a) internal tap or			1690
	(b) standpipe			229



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: YEAR ENDING 31st. Decr. 1953. (Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

BELFORD RUTAL DISTRICT.	Number of inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of INFORMAL Notices served.	Defects remedied by in- formal action.	No. of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects remedied after STATUTORY Notice.	Legal Proceedings.
Structural defects (Summary of Sheet II	273	261	1	261	-	-	-
Defective Food-store	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dampness.	35	35	2	35	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WATER SUPPLY (Insufficient (Unsatisfactory	54 37	-	-	-	-	-	-
DRAINAGE. (Insufficient. (Defective.	2 13	2 13	-	2 13	-	-	-
SANITARY (Insufficient. CONVENIENCES. (Defective)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Premises.	15	15	-	15	-	-	-
Shops Acts.	72	5	-	5	-	-	-
Dairies.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	21	1	-	1	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	67	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces.	79	7	-	7	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals.	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles.	14	9	-	9	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations.	3	3	-	3	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	697	355	3	355	-	-	-

HOUSING

